

**DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
FOR A
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

CONTRACT NO:

CAPTION: Early Childhood State Capacity Building

PROPOSED CONTRACTOR: BUILD (Third Sector New England)

PROGRAM AGENCY: Office of the State Superintendent of Education

FINDINGS

1. AUTHORIZATION:

D.C. Official Code §2-354.04, 27 DCMR 1304, 1700 and 1701

2. MINIMUM NEED:

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Division of Early Learning has an immediate requirement to become part of a nationally recognized consortium of member states that focus on the implementation of high quality early childhood education to provide capacity building, technical assistance and professional development for agency staff, District of Columbia early childhood educators, and District of Columbia community based organizations offering subsidized early childhood education services. In order to further advance the establishment of high quality publically funded early childhood education D.C. Official Code §271.01 *et seq* (2008; Amended 2010) and licensing (29 D.C. Mun. Regs. § 300 *et seq*) in the District of Columbia.

3. ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:

\$200,000.00

4. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:

OSSE is responsible for establishing high quality content standards for publicly funded Pre-K programs (D.C. Official Code §271.01 *et seq*). The Act requires annual research and reporting with regard to Pre-K capacity, enrollment and quality. The Act also establishes grants for community-based organizations (CBOs) to expand Pre-K capacity, with a goal of Universal Pre-K by 2014 and establishes a Higher Education Incentive grant program for workforce development to improve the quality of Pre-K programs, and assist individuals to obtain the appropriate credentials to serve as teachers and assistant teachers in DC Pre-K classrooms. Additionally, OSSE is responsible for licensing all early childhood centers in the District of Columbia which includes compliance, staff training and professional development (29 D.C. Mun. Regs. § 300 *et. seq*). Implementation of a high

quality state wide system of early childhood education is a strategic priority for OSSE and requires a well-established organization in which other state education agencies are part of a national consortium.

OSSE seeks a nationally recognized organization with a proven track record of providing reform strategies for existing state education agencies and systems, coordinating and building partnerships with other member states of the BUILD consortium, and support with state governance structures. The BUILD model is a nationally recognized and published researchers, practitioners, and policy makers that are support states in advancing high quality early childhood education systems.

DEL has made great strides in improving the quality of services delivered to children and families in the District. Internal staff was realigned in order to deliver targeted services based on Ward, improvement/enhancement grants have been issued to childcare providers, and a number of initiatives have been executed to supplement the extensive investment that OSSE has in the education of children ages -5 years old. In order to continue this ongoing increase in quality service, DEL needs to improve its internal controls in financing, programming, and EHS community partners by proven national experts that can provide the required state capacity building. OSSE also requires a vendor that can implement technical assistance model that is delivered by external experts will yield invaluable results to internal performance. Currently, there is only one organization in which states are members of a national consortium in which this model is possible. BUILD (New England Third Sector), is the only national consortium of state education agencies to implement the BUILD model as described above.

5. CERTIFICATION BY AGENCY HEAD:

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct and complete.

Date

State Superintendent of Education

6. CERTIFICATION BY CONTRACTING OFFICER:

I have reviewed the above findings and certify that they are sufficient to justify the use of the sole source method of procurement under the cited authority. I certify that the notice of intent to award a sole source contract was published in accordance with 27 DCMR 1304 and that [no response was received] [the response received was rejected because _____]. I recommend that the Chief Procurement Officer approve the use of the sole source procurement method for this proposed contract.

Date

Contracting Officer

DETERMINATION

Based on the above findings and in accordance with the cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive solicitation process under either Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; D.C. Official Code § 2-354.02 or 2-354.03). Accordingly, I determine that the District is justified in using the sole source method of procurement.

Date

James D. Staton, Jr.
Chief Procurement Officer